

**MARICOPA COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT  
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING**  
Meeting of May 9, 2006

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<b>LOCATION:</b>	Desert Outdoor Center at Lake Pleasant, 41402 N. 87 <sup>th</sup> Ave. Peoria, AZ 85383
<b>COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:</b>	Jill Kusy; Jack Stapley; Randy Virden
<b>COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT:</b>	Laurel Arndt; Raul Chayrez; Celeste Hamilton; Anne Lynch;
<b>STAFF PRESENT:</b>	William Scalzo, Director; Tina Allen, Administrator; Chris Coover, Maricopa Trail Manager; Kristen Mohamed, Trails Planner; Jennifer Waller, Westside Superintendent; Teresa Retterbush, Eastside Superintendent; Don Harris, Park Supervisor-White Tank Mountain Regional Park; Debbie Lemon, Administrative Coordinator, Rhonda Woodward, Administrative Supervisor; Ken Mouw, Engineering Manager; Scott Baker, MCSO; Kevin Costello, County Counsel; and John Ellers, CEO - S.O.L.I.D.

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The official correspondence and staff recommendations contained in this Commission folder are hereby entered as supportive material to the official minutes of the May 9, 2006 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting.

**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING**

**ITEM # 1 – CALL TO ORDER – Jill Kusy, Vice-Chair, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Commission**

- Vice-Chair Kusy called the meeting to order at 10:18 a.m.

**ITEM # 2 – ROLL CALL – Roll Call taken - a quorum was not present.**

**ITEM # 3 – APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 11, 2006 PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETINGS – Jill Kusy, Vice-Chair, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Commission - *ACTION ITEM***

- Motion for approval was postponed due to lack of quorum.

**ITEM #4- DIRECTOR'S SUMMARY OF CURRENT EVENTS – William C. Scalzo, Director, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department – *INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEM***

- John Gunn, Spur Cross Ranch Supervisor, is continuing to work with the Tonto National Forest in a partnership on numerous issues. A major concern is the ongoing diversion of water at Seven Springs by a private bottled water company (Sedona Springs). Director. Scalzo stressed that it is very important to work with them on this issue.

- Easter weekend was very successful at Estrella, White Tank and Usery. The annual sheep drive through Usery was also on Easter morning. Amy Ford has been working with Maricopa County Health Department on health and fitness, as well as the quit smoking program. Amy Roberts has been doing well with the Fitness Challenge hikes.
- At McDowell Mountain, Rand Hubbell, Park Supervisor, has been working on the Maricopa Trail connecting with a nature trail that the Ft. McDowell Yavapai Nation is planning along the Verde River. Chris Coover is the contact for blending the Maricopa Trail with the Yavapai Nation.
- Don Harris coordinated a very successful clean up day at White Tank.
- In celebration of Earth Day, Lake Pleasant Park Staff and Tres-Scuba had a shoreline and underwater cleanup with over 100 volunteers helping out.
- David Smith has been working with the City of Peoria regarding our marina project at Lake Pleasant (Scorpion Bay), Kevin Costello has developed an IGA to better the partnership on this project. Fire safety support and police assistant will come from the City of Peoria.
- Bid opening for the entry station, monument signs and competitive track restroom project is May 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- New staff was introduced: RJ Cardin, our new Assistant Director is starting on May 15. New PIO was hired on and scheduled to start on May 22<sup>nd</sup>. Bob Gaulden, Park Supervisor at San Tan is transferring to Cave Creek.

**ITEM # 5 – PRESENTATION ON SOLAR POWER UNIT AT DOC – Rich Glinski, Park Supervisor, Desert Outdoor Center Maricopa County Parks and Recreation – *PRESENTATION ITEM***

- Rich Glinski, DOC Supervisor presented a Power Point presentation on the entire project. He stressed how important it was for a state like Arizona to make use of renewable energy. The previous chiller unit was installed approximately 6 years ago, and during the summer they have \$6,000.00 a month electric bill. 2 years ago the request was made with APS to conduct a study to help us make better use of energy at the DOC. They wrote a scope of work and conducted a solicitation. Ultimately a contract was awarded to S.O.L.I.D., contingent upon the county accepting the proposal. Installation was finalized in April 2006
- The partnership with APS has brought us signs for wildlife, as well as new perches for hawks in the area. Protecting the aesthetics of DOC was a key to this being done, and Rich felt S.O.L.I.D. did an outstanding job in doing this.
- S.O.L.I.D. will be donating a cutaway solar panel to the educational program at the DOC.
- Commissioner Virden asked who paid for the Solar project, and how the unit would affect the previous AC bills of \$6,000.00. Rich Glinski noted that the project would bring significant savings to the DOC. Director Scalzo asked Rich Glinski to tell Commission members the cost of the project. Rich Glinski then informed members that cost was roughly a quarter million dollars, but that the cost to the Parks was zero, there was no out of pocket money from the County.
- Commissioner Kusy noted that she attended the Solar Dedication and that good comments were made in regards to the project. She also asked if this would be a sample of what's to come for the county, and would we see more solar projects for our parks. Director Scalzo noted that when David Smith, County Manager, was there for the Solar Dedication he was extremely impressed with it and would like to see more partnerships for the county..
- John Ellers, CEO, S.O.L.I.D, thanked the Parks Department and Rich for making this a reality. They are currently commissioning a project in Brussels for the International Energy House, as well as

China for the Olympics. This project is the most influential project to show the world what renewable energy is for our future leaders.

- Vice-Chair Kusy noted the timeliness of this project and expressed appreciation.
- Commissioner Virden commented that as a former Interpretive Instructor he appreciated the presentation by Rich Glinski and thanked staff for their work on the project. Commissioner Virden said the partnership with APS is good and likes what they've done so far.

**ITEM # 6 & 7 BUDGET AND CAPITOL IMPROVEMENT UPDATE – Tina Allen, Administrator and Ken Mouw, Engineering Manager, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department - PRESENTATION ITEM**

- A Power Point Presentation was given by Tina Allen, Administrator, on the fiscal year 2007 budget, covering revenue growth and capital projects of significance. Handouts of the presentation are available for review.
- Growth in the budgets continues to be driven by rising personnel costs for health care and retirement. The Market studies that are being done are critical for 2007, as they will allow us to increase the budget.
- Commissioner Kusy noted that items #6 and #7 on the Agenda are combined.
- Ken Mouw discussed the new visitor centers for our parks; these will be brand new facilities. Consultants have been selected for some of the projects and the department is now awaiting budget approval for July. Estrella, White Tank, Utery and Cave Creek Parks will get a new entry station.
- Master Plan update for the parks, Director. Scalzo noted a possible partnership with local and other state parks in working on the update process. In regards to the operations issues for the master plan Jennifer Waller, Regional Superintendent, noted that relationships with nearby communities and access issues will be addressed for the overall master plan. This will allow us to better handle each individual park once the main master plan is updated and complete. Commissioner Virden noted that the existing master plan was done in the 1963.
- Facilities Management has hired a consultant to determine what environmental issues we need to be concerned about at the Buckeye Hills shooting range.
- The tentative recommended budget is set for approval on May 15<sup>th</sup>, with no anticipated changes.
- A possible Capital Bond request may go to the public to vote on. The Parks projects are diverse, and the 'how to pay for the projects' is what needs to be done. Vice Chair Kusy asked if a Parks Bond issue would be more beneficial versus a County building project and if there is anything that they can do as Commissioners. Director Scalzo noted that the Commission members can talk to their BOS members to get their support for the Parks and for help with budget monies that are going to the Parks.
- Tina noted in final comments that she has a spreadsheet for the Capital by individual park. Vice-Chair Kusy thanked her for the presentation.

**ITEM # 8 MARICOPA TRAILS UPDATE – Chris Coover, Maricopa Trail Manager, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department – PRESENTATION ITEM**

- A Power Point presentation was given by Chris Coover, Regional Trail Manager on updates for the Maricopa Trail (with Kristen Mohamed assisting). October 1<sup>st</sup> is the start date for construction on the Maricopa Trail. SRP donated the Maricopa Trail logo that will be used on all the signs and information regarding the new Maricopa Trail(s).

- The trail system itself is 240 miles and will be connecting all the parks, Total trails construction to be done is 110 miles.
- Initial groundbreaking in Anthem was done in 2003 and is incorporated into their town. Another portion of the trail (segment #15) Anthem is building at no cost to us.
- Segment 14 near Lake Pleasant is scheduled to start in the fall. Current negotiations are being done with CAP for utilization of their land.
- Segment 19 of the Maricopa trail in Spur Cross, is scheduled to start between this fall and spring of 2007.
- Gilbert, Chandler and Tempe are working towards signage for the area canals. A license already exists with SRP for usage of the canals. There will be space for hikers as well as mountain bikers.
- A transportation enhancement grant took over a year for us to prove to ADOT that it was possible to connect Tempe, Guadalupe to South Mountain Park. The National Trail portion near Guadalupe will have a crossover bridge at I-10 to lead to South Mountain Park, connecting the historical Sun Cross Trail. Start time for construction to begin is January 2008.
- Chris noted in final comments that having the Maricopa Trails tied in with each of our Parks will be essential.

**ITEM # 9 LETTER TO TOWN OF FOUNTAIN HILLS APPROVAL – Jill Kusy, Vice-Chair, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Commission – ACTION ITEM**

- Vice-Chair Kusy had some comments and additional items to be included in the letter prior to approval and final sign off. Since there is not a quorum present, this item is to be re-scheduled for discussion/approval via conference call with Commission Members. Date of conference call to be determined. The addition of a resort to the area should be addressed in the letter as well. Director Scalzo asked that Ken Mouw, Engineering Manager, be the lead for completing this.

**ITEM # 10 – CALL TO THE COMMISSION**

- Vice-Chair Kusy commended Don Harris, Supervisor, for a tour of White Tank Mountain Regional Park recently, and for his passion shown for the park.,
- Director Scalzo noted that the Open Space Conference is going to be held May 22<sup>nd</sup> at ASU and he invited the Commission Members to attend.

**Item # 11 – CALL TO THE PUBLIC**

- None.

**Item # 12 – ADJOURNMENT**

- There being no further business, Jill Kusy, Vice-Chair, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Commission, adjourned the meeting at 11:50a.m.

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William C. Scalzo, Director/Secretary

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Celeste Hamilton, Chair